

Pleasant Hill Library Task Force Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: August 7, 2014

Large Community Room, Pleasant Hill City Hall, 100 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Attendees:

- Michael Harris, Pleasant Hill City Council
- Jack Weir, Pleasant Hill City Council
- Jessica Hudson, Contra Costa County Library
- Sandra Bonato, PH Recreation & Park District Board
- Sherry Sterrett, PH Recreation & Park District Board
- Jack Prosek, Pleasant Hill Library Fund
- Katherine Bracken, CCC Library Commission
- Patrick Remer, Pleasant Hill Library
- Bill Bankert, Pleasant Hill Planning Commission
- Brian Crowell, Friends of the Library
- June Catalano, City Manager
- Danielle Habr, City staff
- Martin Nelis, City staff

Reports from Sub-committees

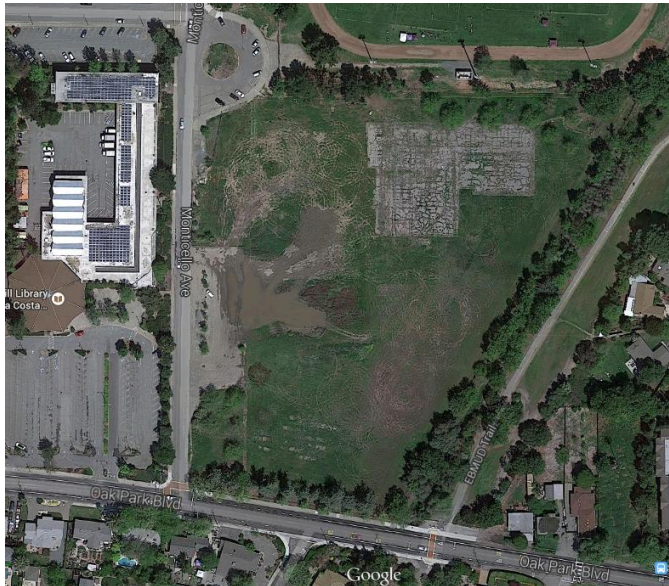
1. Needs Assessment & Sites Analysis

Chair Harris reported that the Needs subcommittee had conducted a field trip the previous day to the various sites still under consideration for the new library location. These sites included the three County owned properties off Cleaveland Road and along Oak Park Blvd., and the fourth site, Pleasant Hill Park. The task force reviewed overhead maps of each of the four sites.



Site 1: Flood Control District property (off Cleaveland Road and Beatrice Road). Chair Harris stated that this site has several issues including the fact that it is in flood zone and that there are three private residential properties fronting on Cleaveland Road with the main portion of the site located behind them. Option one on this site is for the access to the site from Cleaveland Road and second option would be to provide access via Beatrice Road. There is, however, a creek that runs through the site closer to the Beatrice Road entrance.

The advantages of this site are that it is centrally located, within walking distance of schools and Downtown PH, and had public transit. A bridge connecting it with PH Middle School could also be constructed.



Sites 2 & 3: Vacant County 10-acre site and current library site. The committee considered possible locations on the site for the library. Chair Harris expressed a concern of the committee that locating the new library at the southeast corner of this site would mean that it faces into Walnut Creek which is directly across the street on the other side of Oak Park Blvd. Other possible site locations included the current library site.



Site 4: Pleasant Hill Park: Chair Harris outlined the advantages of this site including that it was centrally located, near to Downtown, had public transit, was adjacent to the Teen & Senior Centers and park facilities, and was still within walking distance of several schools. He stated that the sub-committee came to the conclusion that it might be possible to build a library on southeast corner of the park. A two-story structure was possible with administration on the second floor and possibly housing the Rec and Park District offices if need be. The proposal would probably also include a land swap with the Rec and Park District for land at one of the County properties mentioned above.

Chair Harris stated that the sub-committee had concluded that site 4 – Pleasant Hill Park, was the preferred option of all four sites.

Councilmember Weir asked why the Winslow Center site was not included as one other possible option. Chair Harris and Sandy Bonato responded that the site was not central and not within walking distance of any schools.

Councilmember Weir requested that a professional sites analysis study be conducted to assist the task force in choosing the right site for the library. He suggested that the City should fund this study.

Rec and Park Boardmember, Sandy Bonato, suggested that in order to further explore the possibility of using Pleasant Hill Park as a library site, a conversation needed to take place with Rec and Park District representatives. Boardmember Sherry Sterrett opined that the task force should have a 'plan b' option for the site of the library. She stated that she has some serious concerns about the Pleasant Hill Park location and suggested that the subcommittee should look at the Frank Salfingere park site next to the Community Center. Chair Harris suggested that he convene a meeting with two Rec and Park Boardmembers and the General Manager, City staff and two representatives of the Needs Assessment subcommittee. He further stated that going forward that the current sites under considerations in order of preference are:

1. Pleasant Hill Park;
2. Beatrice Road Site (Flood Control District property); and
3. Oak Park Blvd. & Monticello Sites

Library Spaces presentation

Patrick Remer gave a slideshow presentation using photographs from other libraries about the various type of library spaces including spaces for Social Interaction, Outdoor areas, Workspaces and children's Playspaces.

Chair Harris asked staff liaison Nelis to send a copy of the powerpoint to the task force members.

2. Community Outreach

Committee chair Brian Crowell presented an initial draft of the Frequently Asked Questions document which will eventually be posted on the Task Force page of the City website. He stated that the subcommittee was still revising the document and asked members to email any comments or edits to the document to him.

3. Funding/Finance Subcommittee

Chair Jessica Hudson reported that the committee met on July 21st with several additional members joining from other represented organizations. The committee discussed a number of grant options to fund seed studies or develop renderings. She mentioned that the new State Librarian, Greg Lucas, was hosting a meeting at the PH Library on September 5th and library funding may be discussed at this meeting. The committee further discussed which entity or entities would oversee a future bond measure to fund the library construction. The committee discussed whether the formation of a Joint Powers Agreement with the key stakeholders would be beneficial to garnering more community support for a bond measure.

The next meeting of the Task Force was scheduled for Thursday, September 11th at 10:30 a.m. in the large Community Room at City Hall.